

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03780 211337Z
ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3780

NEA/IAI FOR AMB LEWIS ONLY. NO OTHER DIST REQUESTED

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR LE IS US
SUBJ: REPORT FROM THE FRONT

1. SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE SMELL OF JINGOISM IS IN THE AIR. WE ARE TAKING A PASTING IN THE PRESS OVER OUR ALLEGED WEEKEND STRONG-ARM TACTICS WITH THE ISRAELIS IN NEW YORK. THE PASSAGE OF A US-SPONSORED RESOLUTION DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL BUT MAKING NO CONDEMNATION OF THE POL HAS ALSO ENSURED OUR ROLE AS VILLAIN OF THE WEEK. MEANWHILE, THERE IS UNDISGUISED PRIDE OVER THE IDF PERFORMANCE. TV, RADIO AND PRESS TALK ONLY OF VICTORY AND OF THE HAPPY LIBERATED SOUTH LEBANESE VILLAGERS. NOTHING ON CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND ONLY THE OCCASIONAL SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE LOOKED BEFORE IT JUMPED. IN SHORT, WE ARE READING MORE AND ENJOYING IT LESS.

2. BACKGROUNDERS. DAVID WANTS YOU TO START THINKING ABOUT BACKGROUNDERS FOLLOWING YOUR RETURN. HE THINKS YOU SHOULD ALLOW THE DUST TO SETTLE FOR A FEW DAYS AND SUGGESTS APRIL 3 AND 4. THE ISRAELI GROUP WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ONE ROY BRIEFED. ANY THOUGHTS? HE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE AN EDITOR-PUBLISHER LUNCHEON FOR YOU AT HIS HOUSE APRIL 10 OR 11. HE
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RECOMMENDS THE MA'ARIV CONTINGENT. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS DECISION CAN AWAIT YOUR RETURN BUT WE WOULD LIKE YOUR GUIDANCE ON THE BACKGROUNDERS.

3. JAVITS' DINNER. STROKED ABBA EBAN'S TAIL FEATHERS AND HE WILL GRACE YOUR DINNER. I AM AFRAID ITS THE ONLY DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS I CAN CLAIM SINCE YOUR DEPARTURE.

4. FAILURE TO WRITE. SORRY I HAVE NOT BEEN KEEPING
YOU BETTER POSTED, BUT MOST OF MY WORKING HOURS THESE
PAST DAYS HAVE BEEN SPENT LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AT A
GROWING INVASION OF FLISTENING KOSHER-FED LIMBS AND
KNOBS. FORTUNATELY, THERE IS LITTLE ELSE GOING ON.
VIETS

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